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TRUSTEES OF THE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

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Fourth Annual Meeting of the Latin Club

The twelfth regular meeting and the fourth annual meeting of The New York Latin Club is called for Saturday, May 7th, at 12 M, in the Hotel Albert, corner of University Place and Eleventh Street, New York. Professor Knapp, of Columbia University, will address the club on the subject of "Vergil". All persons who are interested whether teachers of Latin or not, are cordially invited to be present. The plan is to serve luncheon (50 cents a plate for everybody) at 12 M promptly, so that there shall be no delay. The address will follow the luncheon, and adjournment will occur about 2 P M *thus leaving the afternoon still unbroken for those who attend.* Please send a postal card at once to the Sec'y, Mr A L Hodges, 309 W 101st, N Y, if you intend to be present, so that we may inform Mr Frenkel the proprietor of the hotel, how many to expect. *Please attend to this at once.*

The election of officers for the coming year will be held at this meeting.

H H BICE, *President*
A L HODGES, *Secretary*

MISCELLANEA SUPERSTITIOSA II

Among the most potent powers of the superstitious apparatus the superstition attached to the so-called "Sympathy" is perhaps the most widely used. Sympathy, for the ancient wizard, is every likeness, however remote or fanciful, between two objects, or two processes of nature. Often the similarity is so far-fetched as to escape us altogether, or, at least, to participate of the nature of a pun.

An example in point is found M.E.XX 85: ossifragi venter madefactus adpositusque his ad stomachum, qui cibum non conficiunt, utilissimus est vel etiam si tantum manu tenetur plurimum iuvat. With this passage we must compare XXVIII 51: unicum est intestinum ossifragi, mirae naturae, quod omnia devorata citissime conficit; huius pars extrema colligitur et reponitur, et cum opus fuerit, ventri laborantis alligatur, miro remedio omnes intestinorum dolores citissime sedat. It is clear that the source of the whole lies in the observation

of the habits of the bird, which has everywhere been the name-giving force (it is the Falco Ossifragus L). The animal which is able to break and devour bones, must enjoy an excellent digestion. Naturally, therefore, any part of its body, and especially the alimentary canal, must possess curative powers in cases of sickness of the digestive organs. The belief almost seems to be built upon a pun, such as have led to religious beliefs elsewhere. Wiedemann, in his excellent "Religion der Alten Aegypter", has called our attention to the fact that the Egyptians were exceedingly fond of puns which in a mythological way were to explain the origin of certain expressions (I c 43 f).

We turn next to a much simpler example of Sympathy: M.E.XVII 2. Against "dyspnoia" the physician prescribes the lung or liver of the fox or of the stag. These are undoubtedly two very fast and, therefore, well-winded animals. But there attaches to this passage also a more human interest. Who can doubt that the old nobleman (he was vir illustrissimus and magister officiorum;) whose way of living we can so well imagine from the reports of his contemporaries (see Boissier, La Fin du Paganisme, and S Dill. Roman Society in the Last Century of the Empire) took the greatest delight in embodying in his motley collection some homely medicine which he himself undoubtedly often prescribed to friends or household companions when he returned from the hunt?

A third example presents a somewhat greater difficulty. M.E. XVI 88 we read that against consumption, even in its desperate stages, it is an infallible remedy to give the spittle of a horse to the patient for three continuous days. The patient, he continues, sine cunctatione sanabis, sed equum mors subita sequitur. There may be in this remedy a multiplicity of ideas. Sympathy is but poorly discernible in the consideration that the horse as one of the fastest animals naturally would appeal to the superstitious in cases of respiratory troubles. But other considerations seem even more powerful. The first thought is to ex-